

# River Scene

**SAN MARCOS**  
We'd love your company.

A Newsletter for City of San Marcos Employees



May/June 2012

## Johnny Carson Wins Coveted Moten Safety Award



**SAFETY FIRST!** Johnny Carson is congratulated by Jon Clack, Assistant Director of Public Services, for his invention of a chain grip that makes hazardous work safer. (Photo by Don Anders)

Congratulations to Johnny Carson, Field Maintenance Technician with Water/ Wastewater Utilities, who received the 2012 Johnny Moten Award, the prestigious honor given by the City of San Marcos for employee initiative and action for a safer workplace.

Johnny, along with his co-workers, recognized an ongoing safety issue related to the equipment used in lifting pumps from wastewater lift station wet wells when the pumps become clogged.

Johnny was recognized for taking the initiative in inventing a solution to a hazard that will make his and his co-workers job safer. He then advanced that solution from concept to actual application in the field.

Congratulations, Johnny! Two other individuals were nominated for the 2012 Moten Award for their commitment to safety:

**Reggie Calvin, Parks & Recreation Crew Leader**, was nominated for his suggestions of a new sound booth for Sights and Sounds that would ensure both his crew's safety and the safety of the public during events.

**Mario Moreno, Traffic Equipment Operator II**, was nominated for his recommendations for anti-vibration gloves that reduce risk of hazards in the road striping environment.

To reduce the safety hazards associated with having to make confined space entries, Johnny modified the design of the chain grip used in this operation with a larger opening that allows it to move past trash on the chain.

After using the new chain grip for several weeks, crew members and supervisors deemed it a success.

The Moten Award was established in memory of Johnny Moten, a founder of the Safety Coach program whose commitment to safety was an example to all. This award is awarded to an employee or team who has been nominated by his/her peers for achievements in establishing a safer work environment.



**WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY**—Jennifer Ornelas, left and Celeste Monforton, a new resident of San Marcos, show off some of the old boots that City of San Marcos employees donated for a Worker's Memorial Day display in Houston.

## Workplace Safety a Personal Mission for City Employee

By Trey Hatt, Communications Specialist

Accounting Specialist Jennifer Ornelas has a powerful reason to help out a memorial project for workers in Houston who died on the job last year.

Celeste Monforton was in a bind—as an advisory board member of the United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities, she was supposed to set up a work boot with a white carnation in memory of each of the 55 workers who, according to the Houston office of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, died on the job in the Houston area in 2011.

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# Giving is a Way of Life for City Employees

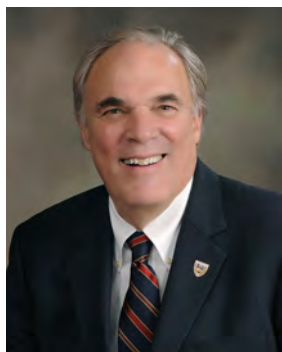
By Jim Nuse, City Manager

San Marcos employees amaze me with your demonstration of exceptional caring and outreach—not only to our community as you go about your professional tasks as public servants, but to each other as a team.

At the recent Employee Awards Ceremony, we had the opportunity to honor those who have served San Marcos from 3-35 years. Congratulations Jay Derrickson (35 years) and Stephanie Langenkamp, Byron Mobley and Warren Zerr (30) and all the rest!

We recognized several staff teams that go above and beyond the call of duty—Employee Group, Safety Coaches, Level of Service volunteers, Customer Service Team, our Neighborhood Clean Up crews and the Web Team. You dedicate extra energy and hours to plan activities, assure a safe work environment, organize public outreach, help our citizens and open a beautiful new online portal to the world. And of course, HR staff are gems at creating ceremonies to honor our employees!

We saluted departments who have demonstrated long-term safety records. Many of our employees work under hazardous conditions on a daily basis—so your focus on safety is no joke!



I was especially proud to see the 2012 Johnny Moten Award go to Johnny Carson, a Water/Wastewater Utility Field Technician. Johnny and his team identified a safety problem and he invented a solution that will reduce the number of risky confined space entries into the wet wells of our sewer system. What a fantastic accomplishment!

The kindnesses you show each other every day make all the difference in a complicated workplace like ours. Jennifer Ornelas and others organized the 5K run for Wray and Waylon, benefitting two of our children who have cancer. Jennifer also organized the collection of 55 pairs of boots for a memorial for workers in the Houston area who died in workplace accidents last year. She did that in memory of her own father who died in a workplace tragedy.

Joni Hickey organized a blood drive for little Waylon to help him in his recovery and collected 40 units—well beyond the goal. Esther Carver recently went to the aid of a stranded motorist whose car broke down at City Hall at closing time. Esther stayed late, provided some free gas and helped the woman on her way! Our police and firefighters are always working for good causes—from Christmas toys to the Pink Heals and MDA campaigns.

These are only a few examples and there are many more. I am proud of our City employees and thank you again for making giving and caring a way of life at the City of San Marcos.

## WE'VE GOT LETTERS!

### KUDOS TO TAMMY!

Just wanted to pass on some compliments to Tammy Strakos. Obviously this is a busy time of year for everyone in HR and I just wanted to applaud her work. I had some questions for her regarding my open enrollment with the new online system, and she was extremely helpful. I know right now y'all are probably getting a million phone calls a day, and I'm not the only one who requested assistance. However, Tammy made me feel like I was the only one. Her service was so personal and she was always quick to respond to my emails. I'm proud to work for a city where we provide great customer service not just to our residents, but interdepartmentally as well!

Sincerely,  
*ECO Jenny Lynch,*  
San Marcos Police Department

### KUDOS TO ANIMAL SHELTER!

I wanted to take a minute to thank and compliment a couple members of the Animal Shelter staff. After I spoke with

you on Monday about my son's dog that ran away, I went to the shelter and spoke with two female employees. I wish I remember their names, but I don't. Both were very helpful, allowed me to walk through the shelter, and more importantly offered me some advice on how to locate my dog. Some of that advice involved posting an ad on Craigslist, which I promptly did.

On Tuesday morning, I received a call from one of the ladies I had spoken to on Monday. She told me that she had located an ad of a found dog on the City's website with a photo that matched that of my dog posted on Craigslist and told me that the dog had been found in the same general area where my dog had gone missing. This told me that she had seen the ad on the City's site and had taken the time to search Craigslist for my ad before taking the time to call me and put the two together.

I was able to contact the people who found "Reese," and he's now back home.

## KUDOS to the City Staff

I never told either of your staff members that I was a City employee and had no identifying clothing on as such. Obviously they care about their work enough to go the extra mile for all citizens of San Marcos. They were pleasant and professional during my visit to the shelter and cared enough to do some follow up the next day. Please extend my thanks to them, and kudos to you as well.

*Chase Stapp*  
Assistant Chief of Police, Operations

## OUR WRITERS

*River Scene* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the City of San Marcos for our employees. Editorial Board Members are: Melissa Millecam, Editor, Trey Hatt, Asst. Editor, Melinda Clayton, Cindy Conyers, Stefanie Daily, Bobette Elliott, Jana Green, Janis Hendrix, Joni Jones, Denise Molina, Stephanie Reyes, Denise Ryan, Jo Secrest, Karen Smith, Linda Spacek, Tammy Strakos, Kristy Stark, Renate Yanity and Warren Zerr. Contributors: Jim Nuse and Don Anders. Copyright: May-June 2012



# WELCOME! *New Employees*



**KRISTIN GARZA**  
*Utilities Customer  
Service Clerk  
Finance Department*

Hello, my name is Kristin Garza and I will be working in the Utility Department for the City of San Marcos. My husband and I live in New Braunfels with our two sons. We enjoy being outdoors, camping and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to being a part of the City of San Marcos family.



**MARGERY MESSER**  
*Emergency  
Communications Operator  
Police Department*

I'm a life-long resident of Colorado and loving the southern Texas heat with no snow. I've been hired by the City to be an Emergency Communications Operator (911 Dispatcher). I have eight years of previous dispatch experience and, I hope that will help me be an asset to San Marcos. I love to fish and play darts, and of course, anything outdoors. I feel very blessed to be hired.



**ANDREW REYES**  
*Street Equipment Operator I  
Public Services-  
Transportation*

Hi, my name is Andrew Reyes. I will be working with Streets and Drainage. I like spending my free time with my wife and son and friends and family. My hobbies are working on small projects on my house and yard. I like to watch soccer and relax with a cold drink.



**RICHARD REYNOSA**  
*Project Engineer II  
Engineering and  
Capital Improvements*

I am a Civil Engineer and graduated from Texas A&M University. I worked at the City of Bryan and San Antonio Water System. I have been married for 12 years and have three children (River age 10, Ryder age 7, and Sophia age 3). I'm currently living in San Antonio, but hope to move to San Marcos or closer to San Marcos. My hobbies include my family, my kids and their activities, as well as playing sports.



**ERNEST LOREDÓ BELTRÁN**  
*Water/Wastewater  
Equipment Operator II  
Public Services-  
Water/Wastewater Utilities*

I have been married for 29 years and have two daughters and two grandchildren. I was born in Austin, Texas. I worked for the City of Austin and started with the Water and Wastewater Dept. I worked 20 years for W/WW, eight years with Construction Inspection and retired in 2004. To relax, I ride my Harley Davidson motorcycle.



**MATTHEW DARST**  
*Administrative Coordinator  
Engineering and Capital  
Improvements*

Hi, my name is Matt Darst. I'm originally from Houston, Texas. I've lived in the Hill Country area for 10 years. My wife, Lina, and I had a beautiful daughter 6 months ago named Lilly. I love being outside, boating, off-shore fishing, and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to getting to know everyone.



**GILBERT HERNÁNDEZ**  
*Water/Wastewater  
Equipment Operator I  
Public Services-  
Water/Wastewater Utilities*

Hi. My name is Gilbert Hernández. My wife and I have lived in San Marcos for 26 years. I used to be a framer

for 20 years for many builders. Now I am excited to be working for the City of San Marcos. Thanks.



**SAMANTHA MAXWELL**  
*Lifeguard  
Community Services-  
Parks and Recreation*

Hey, my name is Samantha Maxwell. I'm a freshman at Texas State, and I will be working at the Activity Center as a lifeguard. Right now I am working towards a degree in Mass Communications-Electronic Media. In August I moved to San Marcos from Wellington, Texas, a small town in the Panhandle.



**KENNY SKROBANEK**  
*GIS Analyst  
Development Services-  
Planning*

I have been with the City of San Marcos for the past three years as a contract GIS Technician and have recently been hired as a GIS Analyst. I received my Bachelors and Masters degrees at Texas State in 2007 and 2010. In my time away from work, I coordinate a nonprofit bicycle collective, the San Marcos Community Bike Project. I also volunteer with other sustainable initiatives, including the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. I'm also a runner, and am training for my first marathon this year. I live in the Dunbar neighborhood with my girlfriend, dog and garden.

## Are You Ready for Some Bowling?

*By Denise Ryan,  
Vice-Chair Employee Group and WIC Administrative Assistant, Sr.*

Polish your bowling ball and dust off those shoes! Your Employee Group has been busy planning its second annual bowling event for Friday, July 27, 2012 from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunset Lanes (1304 Texas 123) in San Marcos will open its doors exclusively to City Employees and their immediate families that afternoon for four fun-filled hours of bowling, food, door prizes and more. Bowling shoes and balls will be provided at no charge.

So you don't know how to bowl? No worries. It is all about fun and fellowship with your co-workers and their families. Bring the kids and join the fun!

# San Marcos Fire Department Honors Service, Tenure

By Melinda Clayton,  
*Administrative Assistant, Fire Department*

On Saturday, March 10, the San Marcos Fire Department held its annual award ceremony at the Activity Center.

Assistant Chief Len Nored introduced new employees Probationary Firefighter Ross Garman and Administrative Assistant Melinda Clayton.

San Marcos Electric Utility employees Juan Gonzalez and Joe Perez were recognized with Civilian Certificates of Commendation for their quick action in spotting and hand extinguishing an apartment balcony fire with their bucket truck that could have quickly spread.

The firefighters introduced a new tradition of presenting a firefighter's axe to recent recruit, Probationary Firefighter Ross Garman. The 2011 Phoenix Award Medal was awarded to Engineer Michael 'Mo' Orichuela for saving a boy from a near drowning in the San Marcos River. Captain Sean Garrison was presented Iron Man of the Year for the second year in a row.

Service Pins were awarded to employees with five, ten, fifteen and twenty-five years of service to the department for 2011. Five Years of Service - Engineer Mark Bomar; Ten Years of Service - Engineer Jonathan Hart, Firefighter Vincent Marin, Engineer Larry Fassauer, Engineer Scott Grunwald, Engineer Michael 'Mo' Orichuela, Captain Frank Arredondo, Captain Aaron Crawford, and Captain Paul Muth; Fifteen Years of Service - Captain Sean Garrison; Twenty-Five Years of Service - Battalion Chief Rick Rowell.

Firefighter Greg Sherrill was promoted to Engineer on May 30, 2011 and his accomplishment was recognized at the event. His wife, Katie, proudly pinned his badge to his uniform.

Engineer Richard Howser was recognized for Outstanding Service by the San Marcos Professional Firefighters Association due to his "can do" attitude that propels him to achieve everything he sets out to accomplish and in doing so he demonstrated the true meaning of Service to our Community.

Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year are peer selected by secret ballot for excellence in overall performance during emergencies and routine operations, leadership, work volume, quality, assistance with special projects, programs, and training. Firefighter Dustin Miller was awarded 2011 Firefighter of the Year and Captain Jay Horton was presented with 2011 Officer of the Year.

Other highlights included Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Rodger Olson; Certificates of Merit presented to Captain Howie Minor; the members of the Honor Guard – Captain Frank Arredondo, Captain Aaron Crawford, Engineer Michael 'Mo' Orichuela, Engineer Tory Turner, and Firefighter Justin Calhoun; the members of the Training Committee – Battalion Chief Jeff Clark, Captain Tara Brinkkoeter, Captain Aaron Crawford, Captain Clint Foehner, Captain Jay Horton, Captain John Koenig, Engineer Liz Baldinger, Engineer Brad Mason, and Firefighter Dustin Miller; and the SMFD recognized the first Citizens Fire Academy participants in 2011.



PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER Ross Garman received his firefighter's axe from Firefighter Blake Schanhals. Captain Foehner and Assistant Chief Nored looked on.



ASSISTANT CHIEF Len Nored presented Officer of the Year Award to Captain Jay Horton.





**TREATS:** Members of the Employee Group are up to their ears in sweet treats as they prepare to distribute thousands of kudos to City Employees on May 10. Kudos sales in 2012 reached almost \$4,700, topping 2011 sales! The Employee Group sells kudos each year as a fund raising project and proceeds from the sale are used to purchase door prizes for the employee Christmas party. The Employee Group sends a huge thank you to everyone who supported kudos sales this year.

***You know that little silver box?***

## City wins award for Pano Logic virtual devices

*By Denise Molina, Webmaster*

The City of San Marcos Information Technology department earned a Significant Achievement Award from the Public Technology Institute for the Virtual Desktop Integration project.

An independent panel of judges evaluated the entries during the PTI's 2011-2012 Technology Solutions Awards. Awards will be presented at the 2012 CIO Leadership & Summit East in Boston in May.

Director Mike Sturm and Isaac Badu, Network Administrator, shared their knowledge and lessons learned about the project with other cities at the 2011 TAGITM (Texas Association of Government Information Technology Managers) conference in San Antonio. Close to 50 people attended the presentation with a positive question and answer session that followed.

The IT department first became interested in virtual desktop deployment solutions when the staff learned about the numerous benefits to the City: reduction in budget and energy costs, faster deployment time, and ability to replicate the virtual machines to a disaster recovery site. They also require fewer resources to manage.

The users benefit by having constant uptime, access to their desktops from home and the ability to access virtual machines from most virtual devices. The deployment of the project was

phased in over a five-year period and will continue to replace workstations that are five or more years old and out of warranty.

The impact and success of this project has brought the San Marcos IT department to the leading edge of new tech-

nologies. The next phase in the process will be to deploy the VMware ThinApp technology, which will allow IT to quickly deploy and update software across the organization using the city's internal "cloud," or centralized server, without having to install software on 500-plus individual machines.

## **Workplace Safety** *(from page 1)*

The display was the centerpiece for a Worker's Memorial Day event in Houston April 28.

She knew where she could find the carnations, but not the boots to put them in.

"We were having difficulty getting donations of used boots," Monforton said. "Jennifer Ornelas put the word out among her colleagues in the City of San Marcos, and they came through for us!"

Ornelas gathered enough old boots and then some from City employees for the memorial display.

Workplace safety is a deeply personal mission for Ornelas. Her father, Raymundo C. Gonzalez, Jr., died in 2004 two months after a water pump seal ruptured and sprayed him and two other refinery workers with 500-degree steam at the BP Refinery at Texas City.

Ornelas' sister Katherine discovered USMWF when she was researching organizations that help families of

people who are killed or injured on the job. The sisters became workplace safety advocates through the organization and began speaking to members of Congress, government agency officials, community groups, and workers.

"Celeste gave Katherine her voice, and Katherine gave me mine," Jennifer Ornelas said.

She brought her passion for workplace safety with her to the City of San Marcos and within a year was an energetic member of the Safety Coach program.

The City of San Marcos safety coaches meet every month to discuss safety issues and conduct training on various jobsite-safety areas. The safety coaches share the knowledge with their coworkers and supervisors in their various departments.

"I'm honored to work for someplace that respects workplace safety and allows us to talk to our supervisors," Ornelas said. "Anyone can talk to a supervisor and say, 'This isn't working. Let's try something else.'"

## FAMILY ADDITIONS

By Karen Smith,  
Secretary to the City Manager

### STORK REPORT

The newest member of Engineering/CIP Dept is **Matthew Darst, Admin Coordinator** and his wife, Lina, are the proud parents of a little girl. Lillianna (Lilly) Meghan Darst was born September 20, 2011. She was 19 ¼ inches long and weighed 6 lbs 9 oz.



**Heather Bazan, ECO, SMPD** and husband Orlando are the proud parents of a baby girl. Emberli Grace Bazan was born December 21, 2011. She weighed 7lbs 14.8oz and was 19.5 inches long.

**Francis Serna, Admin Coordinator** for

Development Services has a new granddaughter. Breaden T. Henley was born March 9, 2012. She weighed in at 7 lbs and was 17 ¾ inches long. Mommy Tiffany and Daddy Second Lieutenant Henley are well and stationed at Ft. Bliss. Welcoming Breaden home is big sister Kaylee.



Proud grandparents **Robert, Master Fleet Services Technician & Mary C. Martinez, Administrative Assistant at the Animal Shelter** are happy to announce the arrival of two grandchildren.



Daughter Naomi gave birth to their grandson, Jonah Malachi Garcia on March 11, 2012. He weighed 5 lbs 8.6 oz and was 19 inches long.

Granddaughter Lyla Persephone Cavazos was born March 31, 2012. She weighed 7lbs 8oz and was 19 ¾ inches. Her parents are Adrian and Leticia Cavazos. Also welcoming little sister home is big brother Nathaniel.

### WEDDINGS

**Claudia Ivette Martinez, ECO, SMPD and Jayson Cormier, Officer, SMPD** were married by Justice of the Peace Beth Smith on March 9, 2012.



Manuel and **Kathleen Garcia (Library)** are happy to announce the marriage of their son, Robert Garcia to Chloe Coles on May 12, 2012.

## EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

*Congratulations on your promotions!*

Richard Robles  
Public Services Metering Supervisor  
Public Services-Electric Utilities

Vincent Delgado  
Complex Metering Technician  
Public Services-Electric Utilities

Melinda Clayton  
Administrative Assistant  
Fire Department

Juan Gonzalez  
Line Person  
Public Services-Electric Utilities

Joann Reyes  
Emergency Communications Operator  
Police Department

Andrew Gonzales  
Complex Meter Technician  
Public Services-Electric Utilities

Mike Sturm  
Director of Information Technology  
Information Technology

Laurie Moyer  
Managing Director of Transit and Solid Waste  
Community Services

John Foreman  
Planning Manager  
Development Services-Planning

Andrew Freeman  
Development Operations Coordinator  
Development Services-Planning

Abigail Gillfillan  
Permit Manager  
Development Services-Permitting

Tim Altenhoff  
Meter Service Technician  
Public Services-Electric Utilities

Bobby Cantu  
Meter Service Technician  
Public Services-Electric Utilities



# 5K Raises Thousands for Malone and Buerschinger Families

*By Jennifer Ornelas,  
Accounting Specialist*

The organizers of the benefit Waylon and Wray 5K are honored to announce that we raised more than \$5,000 for the Malone and Buerschinger families as their children battle cancer.

Thank you so much for all your help and support. Everyone who came out

had a great time, and that is all that I had hoped for! We wouldn't have been able to do this without all of your help and support.

I am honored and proud to work with such wonderful caring people and for this organization.

Volunteers included Warren Zerr, Kelly Earnest, Carlos Rodriguez and

Family, Christin Lindsey, Jan Klein, Bobette Elliott, Rosanna Wisener, Larry Rayos, Tom Buerschinger & Family, Diana Wellman, Melinda Clayton, Stacy Malone & Family, Ron Williams and Mike Sturm.

Also volunteering were Kathleen Chomel, David Alexander, Les Stephens, Karl Kuhlman, Heather Hurlbert, Ken Bell, Mo Johnson, Trey Hatt, Richard Howser & Family, Jessica Jenkins, Karlie Beach, Howard Bolden, Joni Hickey, Jonathan Henderson and Don Anders.

The event was sponsored by the City of San Marcos, BJ's Special Tees, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, HEB, Calli's and Two P's, San Marcos Runners Club, San Marcos Professional Firefighters Association, San Marcos Police Officers Association, L&L Septic & Portable Toilets, Beall's, Root Cellar, and Texas Road House.



ON YOUR MARK: Mayor Daniel Guerrero sounds the starting horn for the Waylon and Wray 5K/1K Fun Run (photo by Don Anders).

## Ed Sprencel Retires from Water Utility

*By Stefanie Daily, Senior Administrative Assistant*

Water Quality Supervisor Ed Sprencel retired in March after more than nine years of service with the City. Ed began his career with the City on March 4, 2003 in the Water/Wastewater Utilities Department, now a division of the Public Services Department.

One of Ed's major accomplishments during his tenure was to close out the LPST (Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank) Site with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This program had been in effect for several years, and cost the City a great deal in water sampling charges.

"Ed's attention to detail and commitment to his job have been greatly appreciated. He is a well-respected employee who set the bar really high," said Jon Clack, Assistant Director of Public Services.

Ed joins his wife, Ann, in retirement. She retired last year after serving 20 years with Comal ISD as a school nurse. He plans to spend time traveling (destinations yet unknown) and visiting with the families of his three children.

Thank you, Ed, for your years of leadership and dependability. The City is losing an expert worker. Our division is losing a friend. You'll be missed.



# Employees Honored for 3 to 35 Years of Service

*By Tammy Strakos,  
Benefits Specialist, Human Resources*

On May 9, the City of San Marcos honored 124 employees for their dedication in serving the people of San Marcos and recognized the contri-

butions of both departments and individuals for exceptional safety records. The event included a buffet lunch from Werner's Catering.

More than 300 employees attended the banquet at the Activity Center and celebrated the achievements of friends and co-workers.



## **3 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Amanda Soliz, James Massaro, Janaina Perez, Anna Cantu, Caitlin Foley, Heather Hurlbert, Jim Nuse; Middle Row: CJ Cooley, Cynthia Lantigua, Jennifer Ornelas, Kim Muth, Richard Robles, Jared Venable, Michael Raines; Back Row: Tony Patin, Willie Adams, Jimmy Alvarez, Brian Beach, Russell Hester, Peter Hernandez. Not pictured: Kaylyn Albritton, David Amer-son, Zachary Beck, Justin Calhoun, Russell Curtis, Matthew Dae-nzer, Evan Easterly, Brandy Flores, Bruce Goltry, Gtephen Guen-ther, Kaleb Johnson, Kassondra Lysek, Hollie Salinas, Marcus Smith, Aaron Stuart, Christopher Tankersley, and Louis White.

## **10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Stephanie Reyes, Doug Kupper, Bobette Elliott, Nevin Cunningham, Linda Garcia, Jim Nuse; Middle Row: Jo Se-crest, Tricia Bacon, Holley Garcia, Kye Kennedy, Bert Hendrix; Back Row: Paul Muth, Israel Alvarez III, Frank Arredondo, Aaron Crawford, Michael Orichuela. Not pictured: Nick Alexander, Eric Charleswell, Robert Elrod, Larry Fassauer, Jonathan Hart, Vincent Marin, Richard Prado, Jessica Robison.



## **5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Melissa McBride, Jessica Jenkins, Petra Duran, Teresa Alvelo, Dinair Evans, Rita Hensley, Ernesto Reyna; Middle Row: Rachel Shelton, Liz Trevino, Jennifer Shell, John Burke, Raymundo Hernandez, Randy Hollar, Paul Stephens, Jim Nuse; Back Row: Nick Riali, Rusty Grice, Cristoval Gonzalez, Luther Harris, Ramiro Hernandez, Zachary Klapuch. Not pictured: Mark Bomar, Candace Brinkkoeter, Juan Cruz, Brian Ellingson, Bradley Mason, Richelle Vaughn







### **15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Ricky Gee, Sean Garrison, Mike Sturm, Jim Nuse; Back Row: Ron Williams, Maria Collins, Ruben Flores, Theresa Purcell. Not pictured: Heather Hise, Lee Leonard, Carlos Rodriguez, Jr., Tonya Sperry.



### **20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Karen Smith, Mark Brinkley, Chase Stapp, Jim Nuse; Back Row: Jimmy Venable, Idalia Manrique, Wade Parham, Janis Hendrix. Not pictured: Michele Scott.



### **25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Front Row: L-R: Larry Rayos, Tim Altenhoff, Ramona Brown, David Gaona, Jim Nuse; Back Row: Chris Tureaud, Esther Carrizales, Hope Delgado, Yolanda Ramirez. Not pictured: Vincent Delgado, Richard Rowell, Steve Stautzenberger, Michael Wisian.



### **30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Jim Nuse, Stephanie Langenkamp, Byron Mobley, Warren Zerr

### **35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

City Manager Jim Nuse congratulates Jay Derrickson for 35 years of service to the City of San Marcos.



*Photos by Don Anders*



# Departments Win Awards for Safety Records

Cindy Conyers, Risk and Safety Manager, announced Occupational Safety Awards honoring departments for safety in the workplace.

Each year, the National Safety Council presents the Occupational Awards to recognize departments that have achieved a reduction in accident frequency or maintained a perfect safety record for the year. The City of San Marcos received 20 awards for the following departments:

COMMUNITY SERVICES: **Environmental Health, Library,**

**WIC, and Neighborhood Services**

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: **Planning/ Permit Center**

PUBLIC SERVICES: **Electric Utilities, Transportation, Water/WW Utilities**

Also: City Clerk's Office, City Manager's Office, Engineering/CIP, Finance/Utility Billing, Fire, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Municipal Court and Police.



POLICE



WIC



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



MUNICIPAL COURT



ELECTRIC UTILITIES



# Staff Honored for Achieving Safe Work Sites



ENGINEERING/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



FINANCE/UTILITY BILLING



FIRE



HUMAN RESOURCES



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



TRANSPORTATION



WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITIES



# State and City Honor Safety Records



LEGAL



PLANNING/PERMIT CENTER



LIBRARY

## BENEFITS BOX

### *FREE OTC Drugs?*

*By Tammy Strakos, Benefits Specialist*

Did you know that you can get certain non-prescription drugs for FREE??? Seriously!

#### ***What can you get?***

- Claritin/Claritin D
- Alavert/Alavert D
- Zyrtec/Zyrtec D
- Allegra/Allegra D
- Nicorette, Nicotine Patch or Lozenges, limit 3 per calendar year
- Prilosec
- Prevacid
- Zegerid

It's called an "Over the Counter" benefit and it's great for someone who has to take OTC allergy or acid reflux medicine on a regular basis. It also works with store brand and generic versions of these products!

#### ***Here's how to make this benefit work for you:***

1. Get a prescription from your doctor for any of the OTC medications in the list above. Ask him/her to include 11 refills so that you don't have to go back every time you need a refill.
2. Go to an Align Pharmacy (HEB, Sam's, Walmart, Target, to name a few) and get the box off the shelf that most closely reflects your prescription. For example, in the case of Claritin D 12-hour, a prescription for one tablet two times per day for 30 days equates to two 30 count boxes.
3. Take the box to the pharmacy counter and give them the prescription that you have. When the clerk gives you a strange look, tell him that this is a special benefit that your employer provides for you and not to be jealous.
4. The pharmacy will need to assign an RX# on the prescription and run it through Restat in order for it to process at the \$0 OTC co-pay.

#### ***What's the catch?***

You must use an Align pharmacy to get this benefit. Other than that...NOTHING!

Still have questions? No problem! Give us a call in HR and we'll be happy to help you get the most from your benefits.





## A Tribute to the Library

*Last summer we had a Fulbright Scholar from Indonesia present a craft for children at the library. She wrote about it in the international magazine for Fulbright scholars. I want to thank Robin, Ashley, and Susan for putting together some uniquely interesting program opportunities for our community. --Stephanie Langenkamp*

I was invited by my colleague and professor, Steve Wilson, a former [Fulbright U.S. Scholar](#) (Slovenia, 2002), to become involved with the San Marcos Public Library's activities for kids. At first, I was hesitant because of how people might react to my veil. Professor Wilson assured me that I would be fine as long as I could engage children in interesting cultural activities.

Last summer, I was invited once again by the San Marcos Public Library to perform. Surprisingly, even though this event was not as well publicized as the first one, many kids came and participated along with their parents/guardians, erasing any anxiety that I initially had about performing. We really had a great time together.

I started with teaching the audience about Indonesia and how diverse it is, just like the United States. We repeated the dance three times and the parents/guardians joined in the fun. I was so happy that they accepted me, regardless of my veil and any other outward cultural differences. When the parents/guardians thanked me, and the kids hugged me for the great time we'd had, I was deeply touched. I also realized that not only had I contributed to my host community by introducing my culture to them, but they, in turn, had given me strong assurances that they accepted me. This was one of the most unforgettable days of my Fulbright grant.

*--Nita Novianti of Indonesia*

# City Stars in 2012 Corporate Challenge!

*By Denise Molina, Webmaster*

Corporate Challenge is an annual competition sponsored by the Parks and Recreation department in which City of San Marcos employees compete with other local companies in various events. The city team has taken first place in both the kickball and softball events. This is the second year that the City team has taken first place in the kickball event and the seventh consecutive year that our City team has taken first place in the

softball competition, beating out Gary Job Corps for the championship! This year we have seen more City teams compete than ever before and we encourage all employees to sign up and get involved in any of the following upcoming events:

- Darts: May 20
- Golf Tournament: June 3
- Canoe Race: June 24
- Washers: June 24



Park Ranger J.R. Mendoza hits a mean softball during Corporate Challenge 2012.



From left, Rinaldo Rodriguez, Ron Diaz, Esther Carver, Richard Robles, Kyle Dickie, Andrew Freeman, Denise Molina, Jessica Jenkins, Kerry Cortez, Frank Molina, DerryAnn Gonzales get psyched up for Corporate Challenge 2012. (Photo by Don Anders)

To learn more or download waiver and registration forms visit [www.sanmarcostx.gov/cc](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/cc) or contact DerryAnn Gonzales, Captain or Denise Molina, Co-Captain.

# Recent Graduates

By Bobette Elliott,  
Administrative Assistant, Legal Dept.

**Francis Serna**, Administrative Coordinator for Development Services, is proud of her niece, Sabrina Rangel who will be graduating in from Seguin High School. Sabrina will attend Southwestern University-Georgetown in the fall.

Hannah Sturm, daughter of Information Technology Director **Mike Sturm** and wife Colleen, will be graduating from Texas A&M in College Station with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Geology.

Dalton Phillips will be graduating from Canyon Lake High School on May 26, 2012. Dalton's plans are to attend Texas State University in the fall with a major in Pre-Communication Design. Dalton is the son of Rhonda Riali and step son of **Nick Riali**, Recreation Programs Specialist for the Parks and Recreation department.

Bradley Rodriguez will graduate from Wimberley High School on May 25, 2012. Bradley is the son of **Carlos** (Accounting Specialist Sr.) and Stephanie **Rodriguez**. Bradley was the starting left tackle for Wimberley's State

Championship team and involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Bradley plans to attend Howard Payne University, majoring in Exercise and Sports Science and will also play football for the Yellow Jackets!

**Leslie Watkins**, Purchasing Specialist Senior is proud of her husband Arron, who is graduating with high honors and is a member of multiple honor societies from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Religious Studies. After graduation from UT, Arron will be attending Baylor University Law School in the fall. Baylor University has awarded him a 3/4 paid scholarship.

Alex Lantigua is graduating from San Marcos High School this year also. He has plans to attend Austin Community College this fall. Alex is the son of Pedro and **Cindy Lantigua**, a Records Specialist for the Police Department.

**Lisa Dvorak**, former Assistant Chief of Police and now Community Liaison for Neighborhood Services is graduating from Wisdom University, Mill Valley, California with a Master of Arts in Wisdom Studies. Lisa is going to continue her education by getting her Ph.D also.

**Tonya Sperry**, Emergency Communications Operator for the Police Department is proud of her daughter Shelby. Shelby will be graduating from San Marcos High School. She was an active band member for four years, playing the percussion in the pit section. This fall, she plans to attend Austin Community College.

Cole Stapp, son of Assistant Police Chief **Chase Stapp** and wife Teri Stapp, will be graduating from San Marcos High School on June 2. Cole plans to attend Texas State University. During his high school career, Cole has been active in NHS and the San Marcos Rattler Band including the Marching Band, Symphonic Band and the Jazz Ensemble.

**Chase Stapp** and his wife, Teri are also very proud of their exchange student Carolin Maier. Carolin is from Germany will be participating in the graduation ceremonies at San Marcos High School in June.

**Denise Ryan**, Senior Administrative Assistant for WIC has a nephew, Keith Richards, who will be graduating from the University of Houston with a Masters in Business Administration on May 12.



**Mary Martinez**, Administrative Assistant for Animal Services, proudly announces that her daughter, Naomi Azela Garcia, will graduate from San Marcos High School. While attending school, Naomi was involved in the Diamond Line Dance Squad. Naomi is looking forward to attending Austin Community College.

Jeremy Alvarez will also be a graduate of San Marcos High School this year. Jeremy will attend Lincoln Technical Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas in the fall. His parents are both employees of the City. Jeremy's father is **Jimmy Alvarez** of the Transportation Department and mother **Christina** is a Deputy Court Clerk for Municipal Court.

**Robin Wood**, Patron Services Librarian, and Scott Wade are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, Marley. She plans to work for one or two semesters and then attend Austin Community College and will eventually transfer to Texas State University.

**Pam Burleson**, Head Cashier for Utility Billing is proud of her nephew, DeMarcus Sparks, who is graduating from Aldine High School in Houston. He received a full scholarship to play basketball at Northwestern Oklahoma University in Alva, Oklahoma.

Taylor Mobley will be graduating San Marcos High School in May. Taylor is the daughter of SMPD Sgt. **Byron Mobley** and Probation Officer Lisa Mob-

ley of Bexar County. Taylor is an active member of HOSA, AVID, NHS, and FFCLA (past President). In addition, Taylor also volunteered for Blue Santa, Pink Hills, and other cancer related events. She competed in Regional's for FFCLA and had a fifth place finish and competed at the State competition for the same project. An athletic trainer for the football, basketball and track team her senior year, she is actively participating in Project Graduation. Taylor plans on attending Texas State University San Marcos, pursuing a career in the medical field.

Victoria Rae Shroyer, daughter of Street Maintenance Crew Leader **Jesse Shroyer**, is graduating from Wimberley High School. Victoria participated in Volleyball and received the Academic All District and Academic All State awards. She has been accepted to Texas State and is going to attend in the fall. Also, Jesse's son Casey Cline Shroyer is graduating from Texas State University on August 10 with a degree in Fine Arts.

**Bruce Noel** of the City Water/Wastewater Service and wife Yvette are proud to report that their daughter Alison Noel is Graduating May 12 from Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and minor in chemistry. She will soon attend a nursing program.

Kris Millecam, daughter of **Melissa Millecam**, Director of Communications, and Aart Millecam, graduates in May with a Masters Degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. Kris also holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the School for International Training in Vermont and a BA from Southwestern University. Melissa's niece Elle Bendele also has graduated from Longwood College in Virginia and nephew Rodney Bendele graduates from high school in Stafford, Virginia.

Christopher Luna, son of Henry and WIC Breastfeeding Counselor **Sandra Luna**, will be graduating from Seguin High School on June 2, 2012. Chris is a pitcher and outfielder for the Seguin Varsity Baseball Team. Chris plans to attend Texas A&M University Kingsville and major in education.

Felicia Ruth Delgado, daughter of Richard and **Maria Delgado**, Deputy Court Clerk, is graduating from San Marcos High School in May. Felicia has been very involved in school with one year in volleyball and track, four years of basketball, CrimeStoppers, Key Club, TAFE (Texas Association/Future Educators), Class of 2012 Jr. and Sr. Vice President and National Honor Society. Felicia will be attending Austin Community College to focus on a degree in business and Texas State University in Early Childhood Development. Her dream is to open her own daycare and help children at an early age with education and social skills of single or low income families.

# The SMFD Takes Pride In Its New Patch



By Melinda Clayton,  
Administrative Assistant

When City Council officially approved the name change to San Marcos Fire Department from San Marcos Fire and Rescue, several department members approached Chief Stephens requesting a new patch design and logo. He in turn, requested that the membership submit ideas and over 30 designs were proposed.

The department members voted on their favorite, and after a few minor adjustments, the change was made. The winning patch design was hand-drawn by Engineer Mark Bomar and the SMFD logo inscription was created by Firefighter Isaac Hernandez.

## THE MEANING OF THE PATCH

The shape of the patch is the traditional Maltese Cross that is known around the world as a symbol of the fire service. The eight points of the cross represent Loyalty, Piety, Frankness, Braveness, Honor & Glory, Contempt for Death, Respect for the Church, and Helpfulness to the Sick & the Poor. The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his/her life for you. The Maltese Cross is a firefighter's badge of honor, signifying that he/she works in courage. The Texas flag proudly shows its colors inside the cross with interlocking initials of San Marcos in the heart of the cross.

Baseball teams have initials on their caps and the interlocking initials fondly reminded Engineer Mark Bomar of his childhood baseball playing days. As for his inspiration of the design, "To be honest, I think this patch was God at work in me. I hoped the patch would remind us to be humbled before something greater than us."

Firefighter Isaac Hernandez commented, "I thought the department could use a logo that symbolized patriotism with its colors, but yet could have a font style that had a modern day feel to it, especially after adopting our traditional name."

The patch is sewn on the sleeve of all uniforms and dress coats, the SMFD logo is printed on department work-out shorts, t-shirts and baseball caps.

We take great pride in the design of our new department patch and logo. SMFD members wear both with honor.

## WICWELLNESSWORKS

**Q:** Do I really need to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day? Can't I just take a multi-vitamin instead?

**A:** While vitamin-makers want you to believe that by simply taking a vitamin you can cure all your ills, **vitamin capsules aren't as good as what you can get in nature.** All of the vitamins, minerals, and nutrients your body needs can be found in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, dairy products, and meats. Not only do foods contain the right amount of vitamins and minerals that your body needs, they are easier to absorb than those found in capsule-form. Though some people may need certain supplements (e.g., pregnant or nursing women), many people can meet their daily requirements through a healthy diet. Unless your doctor tells you that you need a specific vitamin, you are better off eating a healthy diet with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables to meet your vitamin and mineral needs.

For more information on vitamin supplements, visit:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/supplements/NU00198>

